

Fairmilehead Community Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 7 November, 2006 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls.

Present: Dennis Williams (Chair); Louise Maguire (Vice-Chair); Norman Tinlin (Secretary); Alison Elfick (Treasurer); Johanna Carrie; Andrew Cross; Richard Hinton, Buckstone Association; Sheena Robertson; Councillors Elaine Aitken and Jason Rust; Pc Graham Harvey; Joyce and Bruce Beveridge; Mike Brunsdon; Sheila Bulmer; Ian Elfick; Dot Logan; Norman McKenzie; Jennifer Munro; Audrey Ryan; Fiona Simon; Charles Whytock and 15 members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor Andrew Scobie and Margaret Walker

1. Edinburgh Drinking Water Project

The Chairman introduced Richard Anderson (Project Manager), Gus Watt (Client Delivery Manager) and June Tinto (Business & Community Relations Manager) from Scottish Water.

They gave a presentation on the Edinburgh Drinking Water Project starting with its history. No option had yet been selected but Alnwickhill was deemed not to be suitable for expansion. This left 2 options, re-use and expansion of Fairmilehead to take in existing work of Alnwickhill or a new build at another site in the A702 corridor. There would be 2 large structures on site and in Midlothian 5 sites had been identified as possibly suitable although there were considerations such as the green belt, environmental issues and Pentlands Regional Park.

The closing date for the consultation had been extended to 14 November. The Scottish Water Board sits on the last day of January and a decision is expected at the beginning of February with planning applications being lodged next summer but construction is not anticipated to start until summer 2008. A Community Forum would be set up for the life of the project.

If Fairmilehead is chosen, after a construction period of about 2½ years, the site would not be heavily staffed and there would be weekly delivery of chemicals etc.

There followed a period of questions including:

What would happen to existing site if not expanded – likely to be residential use although Scottish Water wish to remain as neighbour and would retain the existing offices.

What about the playing fields – negotiations are ongoing about their use during the construction period, Alternative arrangements would require to be made such as bussing to another facility.

What would happen on the extended site – Rapid growth filtration is a new method but would be up to 70,000 units, less than 5% of current demand.

Traffic movements – about 200 vehicle or lorry movements a day but this would not be everyday, only at certain periods of the construction when materials were being delivered or taken away.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their attendance.

2. Police Report

PC Harvey reported for the month of October. There had been no crime of dishonesty (housebreakings, theft OLPs motor vehicles etc) recorded during the month.

There were 9 vandalisms, 50% of which were to domestic property. 10 crimes had been solved for the month, 2 vandalism, 4 assaults, 3 breach of the peace and 1 possession of offensive weapon.

There had been 2 vehicular accidents, both damage only. One in Buckstone Loan East at the Lea (driver error and misjudgement whilst undertaking slow speed parking manoeuvre) and the other Braid Road at Riselaw Crescent (driver error colliding with stationary vehicle parked at locus)

Regarding Halloween extra resources had been on the Buckstone estate were order had been better than last year but there had still been a small group. They had come from Riselaw, Comiston, Newington, Piershill and the local area. 50 eggs had been recovered half the total of last year. They had been purchased at Asda, Tesco and Farmfoods. There had been a change in tactics this year in that they were knocking on doors, and then when answered, throwing the eggs into the house or through doors that were unlocked.

There had been less calls relating to fireworks this year. As a result of a previous complaint attention had been given to parking in Oxfords Green for the temporary school.

3. Minute Of Meeting Held On 3 October 2006 And Matters Arising.

In relation to para 2 on page 3 Richard Hinton said that the Buckstone Association had leased the field from the Water Board. Item 7 relative to dropped kerb should read few dropped kerbs rather than no dropped kerbs.

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2006 were then approved on the motion of Richard Hinton and seconded by Sheena Robertson.

Louise Maguire gave a brief report on the EACC (Edinburgh Association of Community Councils) AGM on 28 October. The main topic had been Neighbourhood Planning. Housing Associations etc and areas without Community Councils would be entitled to representation.

For the record Richard Hinton stated that the Education Department had received the Water Board field on 1 April 1994 and it consisted of 1.67 acres of land.

4. Correspondence

- 1) The Secretary reported that the glass in the noticeboard had been severely cracked and he had had to arrange for its replacement. The account for £88.45 was passed for payment.
- 2) Letter from Scottish Water advising of further Open Day on 24 October at Buckstone Terrace offices.
- 3) Planning Aid for Scotland Autumn Newsletter
- 4) Scottish Health Council – Questionnaire on recent Children & Young People’s Strategy – completed by Secretary
- 5) Scottish Executive Water Division – Information re 2 consultations
- 6) Eileen Hewitt, CEC Liaison Officer – Minutes of joint meeting, list of CC Office Bearers
- 7) Capital Review - Summer edition
- 8) Waterwatch Scotland – Meetings of South East panel – passed to Dennis Williams
- 9) Planning Aid for Scotland – New arts project
- 10) E-mail from Association of Scottish Community Council – Office bearers
- 11) Bago – Leaflet re their Tools for Litter
- 12) Letwise – Information sessions
- 13) Inside Letting – Autumn issue
- 14) Lumison – Invoice for domain renewal – Passed to Treasurer for payment
- 15) E-Mail from PC Graham Harvey – Community Safety panel – circulated by e-mail
- 16) Response to question raised at LDC re CCTV – passed to Chairman

5. Councillors Reports

Councillor Aitken reported that her latest newsletter was being distributed in the area. The next Pentlands LDC was on 22 November at the Craiglockhart campus. The planting of bluebells in Fairmilehead Park was to be arranged with Pentland School. A private fence in Pentland Gardens had been set on fire but the 3 culprits were known. She was trying to arrange a ‘No Through Road’ sign for Buckstone Howe and was investigating the parking in Buckstone Hill, where although the parking was legal it was opposite driveways making it difficult to get out. She had attended the Oxfords Youth Group Oscars the previous Friday evening.

Councillor Rust reported that planning permission for the golf course at Swanston was still pending and there would be a requirement regarding flooding and the footpath. The bushes on Swanston road were going to be cut back and there had been reports of rats at the rear of Morrisons. The council were attending.

The petition for the No18 bus had received 4000 signatures from the Colinton area.

At this point the consultation for Scottish Water was further discussed. It had been extended to 24 November to allow parents to make their views known. If the Water Board field was not in the equation then work would be extended by about 3 months and the project was viable with or without the field.

After discussion it was decided that the Secretary should respond to the consultation on behalf of the Community Council saying we were in favour of the extension of the Fairmilehead site but it was felt that the Water Board field should be retained for community use. They did not wish to see the site turned into housing. It was also felt that all engineering options for the site had not been fully explored. Concern was also raised about the height or size of any buildings and the increase in traffic.

6. Planning and Environment

Louise Maguire said there had been nothing on the recent weekly planning lists.

In Fairmilehead Park the bushes had been cut back and the branches removed from the gully pond. Daffodils and bluebells would be planted in Braidburn valley in the next 2 weeks. Craig Dunlop, CEC, would be seeing to the planting of a ½ standard ok tree in Fairmilehead Park.

The signposts in Cockmylane were being refurbished and the latest Spokes magazine had been published.

7. Transport Sub-Committee

The Secretary reported that he had just received a response to his FOI request regarding the heights of the speed bumps on the Buckstone Estate. He had passed copies to Andrew Cross and Mike Brunsdon but detailed examination had not been done yet although it appeared from the figures that some did not comply with the legislation.

8. AOCB

Mr Whytock thanked the Secretary for writing to Scottish Water regarding the overgrown hedging which had been cut back. He asked if it was possible for the same to be done regarding the bushes overhanging Buckstone Terrace from within the Buckstone Nursery.

Mike Brunsdon asked who was responsible for cleaning the graffiti that had appeared on some of the postal delivery boxes on the Buckstone Estate. Royal Mail were responsible and Richard Hinton was following this up.

Sheila Bulmer enquired as to the status of the right of way at the rear of Morrisons. It was confirmed that this was MOD ground.

The Chairman thanked everybody for attending the meeting.

9. Date Of Next Meeting

This was arranged for Tuesday 5 December 2006 in Fairmilehead Parish Church Halls which would be followed by cheese and wine.

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